

have learned there is often nothing for them when they get there.

Payette County alone in the heart of West Virginia's coalfields has lost over 25 percent of its people since 1950. The population of the State as a whole dropped from 2,005,552 in 1950 to 1,860,421 in 1960, the greatest loss of any State in the country.

Still, some will argue that West Virginia has not lost enough. One businessman put it bluntly: "The only solution to our problem is death and migration." Unemployment in West Virginia runs 10 to 12 percent, while nationally it is about 7 percent. In the heaviest coal-producing counties of the State, up to 30 percent of the people are out of work.

There are as many reasons why this has happened as there are rumors what will happen next. Both questions can be answered in one cool, statistically laden sentence: In 1940, 120,000 miners turned out over 100 million tons of coal; in 1960, 40,000 miners turned out almost as much.

The demand for coal has not increased with the years; if anything, it has lessened with the widespread switch to oil and natural gas in homes and industry. The diesel engine has all but replaced the steam engine. There is increasing competition from residual-oil imports as well.

Certainly there was a lack of preparation for the inevitable. Critics charge there was a minimum of research to develop new uses for coal. Labor failed to prepare its members for anything beyond the increasingly obsolete skills they had already mastered.

A few miners have left the union to accept mining jobs at \$10 a day—less than half their wage rate—in order to work at all. Others have bought secondhand trucks and have gone into the business of coal mining on their own. Some mines, abandoned by their owners as unprofitable, are being worked by hand for whatever jobless miners can get out of them. Still another use of the mines, putting a half dozen or so coal miners back to work, seems almost ludicrous—growing mushrooms in their cool, dark recesses.

The result is a paradox of want and plenty everywhere, living side by side. Children are known to take part of their Government school lunch home to share with their families. Some even go without because they don't have the 25 cents to pay for it. Still, there are towns in the depressed areas that are growing, prosperous, even booming. Some merchants will tell you that business is better than ever, and new-home construction seems to be at an all-time high. Either new industries have boosted business, or where the old ones are still operating—a few mines, for example—there are men working overtime. In Oak Hill, from the beautiful hills of a first-rate country club you are within walking distance of the almost deserted mining community of Summerlee.

West Virginia is not alone in telling this story. It is being repeated by unemployed workers across the country—a textile spinner in Sanford, Maine; a steelworker in Pittsburgh; an auto assembler in Dearborn; an aircraft laborer in California. The toll of jobless today is 5,500,000, the most since 1941. Close to 2 million have been out of work 15 weeks or longer, half of them for 27 weeks or more. These figures do not even account for the numbers who work at odd jobs part time or have gone into unwanted retirement.

While 1 of every 5, or 20 percent, of all manual laborers is out of work, only 1 of 60, or 1.6 percent, of all professional and technical workers is. As skill increases, unemployment decreases. One of every eight semiskilled mechanics and factory hands is without a job, compared with 1 of 20 salesclerks and officeworkers, 1 of 50 managers and executives.

President Kennedy has said that things may get worse before they get better. Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg (who discussed automation in the June Journal) wrote in the Saturday Evening Post recently: "In the next 10 years, at least 26 million new young workers will be flooding into the labor force, 40 percent more than during the 1950's. In addition, some 3 million women will be returning to the labor force after having temporarily left it. But normal causes of attrition—deaths, retirement, and the like—will yield only 15,500,000 openings. We will, therefore, have to provide new jobs for more than 18 million people throughout the 1960's."

Unless the economy grows at a far faster rate than in recent years, there will be no real change in the number of jobs available. Changes in technology and consumer wants, the relocation of industry, and the depletion of resources have combined with a certain apathy of States dependent on a single industry, of manufacturers dependent on a single product, of labor unions depending on a single goal, of workers dependent on a single skill.

The jobless who have exhausted even their unemployment compensation must now rely on Government food allotments (nearly 15 percent in West Virginia). Still, there is courage and there is faith and there is hope. Government surplus provides the charity.

There is a look on the face of a man who is unemployed that is unlike any other. He does not have a lot to say. He can't articulate his trouble. It would be redundant. It is right there in front of you.

Where a mine has closed, you often see the men who used to work it sitting on the railroad tracks leading to the tipple—silent, waiting for something to happen to their lives. The mine itself looks solemn and black, and strands of grass falling over the tracks measure the months it has been closed. A miner's hands become cleaner as the idle days fall away, but, they say, the coal never quite washes off. It's part of him—but it may not be part of this time and this place. The good earth, for many, has become the sorrowing earth.

either short-sighted, peculiarly narrow minded, or both"; and (2) 26.1 percent of the New Jersey young men who took the selective service mental test in 1959 failed, whereas the national average was 24.7 percent.

The use of the selective service statistic is an example of carelessness with the truth which characterizes much of the argument for Federal school aid. There is no relationship between the amount of money spent in New Jersey on public schools and the selective service failure rate.

There are States which spend much less on schools and have a much lower failure rate than New Jersey. They are States which do not attract the undereducated from elsewhere in the numbers that New Jersey does. Our State is a mecca for the underprivileged who seek a better life.

The ADA appeals to passion and prejudice rather than to reason with these two arguments.

State Senator Sandman, whose letter to the editor appeared in the forum this week, offered a real argument against Federal school aid. He asked why the taxpayers of financially hard-pressed school districts in his county, Cape May, should be called upon to pay \$2 to \$2.50 in Federal taxes for each dollar of Federal aid.

The bitter irony of the school aid proposal is that New Jersey is being called upon to pay through the nose for a Federal school aid program in order to help supposedly poor States which tempt New Jersey industry to move with offers of tax rebates and other financial advantages.

Cubans
Cuban Prisoners for Tractors

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PRESCOTT BUSH

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Monday, June 26, 1961

Mr. BUSH. Mr. President, the ill-conceived plan to submit to Castro's blackmail offer to trade Cuban prisoners for tractors has collapsed. The tractors-for-freedom committee, formed with the backing of the President, has disbanded after accusing the Cuban dictator of bad faith in negotiations for the exchange.

Now that this unfortunate adventure in attempting to carry on diplomatic negotiations by other than official agencies is over, I hope that the State Department will redouble its efforts to exert pressures on Castro not only to release the Cubans in question but especially to secure the freedom of American prisoners held in Cuban prisons.

One such American prisoner is Drexel Gibson, an American businessman who was arrested in Cuba on April 19, and since that time has been imprisoned. When news of Mr. Gibson's imprisonment reached this country, I immediately communicated with the State Department to urge action to secure his release and have been in touch with the Department numerous times on this matter. The latest information I have received is that the Swiss Embassy in Havana, through which discussions with the Cuban Government are taking place, reports that Mr. Gibson is being investigated for "activities against the state."

The ADA on Federal School Aid

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. WILLIAM B. WIDNALL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1961

Mr. WIDNALL. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is rather important at this time to present all of the arguments for and against the proposed program of Federal aid to education. As one who feels that the Kennedy administration proposal is a step completely against the best interests of our school system, I submit, under leave to extend my remarks, this editorial from the Herald-News, Passaic, N.J., dated June 22, 1961:

THE ADA ON FEDERAL SCHOOL AID

The New Jersey Council of the Americans for Democratic Action sent out a leaflet calling for emergency action to get the Federal aid to education bill passed just before the legislation bogged down in the House of Representatives.

The booklet is useful because it tells why the ADA believes that New Jersey needs the Federal aid legislation. The arguments are (1) people opposed to the legislation "are

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The Swiss Embassy has requested permission to visit Mr. Gibson and organize his defense.

Mr. Gibson's wife, a constituent of mine who resides in Riverside, Conn., was in Washington last week and was interviewed by the distinguished senior Senator from Indiana [Mr. CAPEHART]. Because the information brought out in this discussion is of interest, not only to people of Connecticut, but to those who are concerned about other Americans held prisoner in Cuba, I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that a transcription of the interview may be printed in the Appendix of the RECORD.

There being no objection, the transcript of the interview was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GUEST INTERVIEW WITH WIFE OF AMERICAN PRISONER IN CUBA

Announcer. From the Nation's Capital and a public service Senator HOMER E. CAPEHART reports to the people of Indiana. Today Senator CAPEHART has a special guest. Now here is Senator CAPEHART.

Senator CAPEHART. We have been trying to give to the American people and the people of Indiana the facts and the truth in connection with a number of issues facing them. At times they are not very pleasant because world conditions today are not pleasant.

But I am one who believes that the American people should have the facts. We ought to tell them the truth. And for that reason we put on this kind of a program. Today we have with us as a special guest a lady, a mother and a wife from the State of Connecticut, Mrs. Drexel Gibson, of Riverside, Conn., whose husband is a prisoner in Cuba. I thought that inasmuch as we are talking today about giving up some 500 tractors for some 1,200 Cuban citizens that you should meet Mrs. Gibson whose husband is in a Cuban prison. Likewise, I'll give you during this program the names of 22 Americans who are in prison in Cuba. And now we'll meet Mrs. Gibson. How do you do, Mrs. Gibson.

Mrs. GIBSON. How do you do, Senator CAPEHART.

Senator CAPEHART. You, I believe, lived in Cuba for a number of years.

Mrs. GIBSON. I lived there for 2 years. My husband was running the Berlitz School of Languages in Cuba.

Senator CAPEHART. That was a school that taught Cubans to speak English and other languages?

Mrs. GIBSON. Yes; they were very interested in English.

Senator CAPEHART. And you were there 2 years?

Mrs. GIBSON. I was there 2 years. I had to return last July because our young son had some medical problems.

Senator CAPEHART. And you returned from Cuba to the United States?

Mrs. GIBSON. Yes.

Senator CAPEHART. And then your husband came up later, did he?

Mrs. GIBSON. He came up and visited in November. Our son had had two operations at that point. My husband went back to Cuba and in March another operation was expected so he returned then. He went back the 11th of April. The invasion was the 17th. He was arrested the 19th.

Senator CAPEHART. He was arrested the 19th of April. That was after the invasion.

Mrs. GIBSON. Two days after the invasion.

Senator CAPEHART. And he is now, of course, in prison in Cuba. And he is an American citizen. You are an American citizen. You were born in Connecticut?

Mrs. GIBSON. Yes, he was born in Iowa.

Senator CAPEHART. He was born in Iowa and you were born in Connecticut. He was operating a legitimate business in Cuba. And they threw him in jail on April 19.

Mrs. GIBSON. Yes, the police were waiting for him when he arrived at his office.

Senator CAPEHART. Have you heard from him since?

Mrs. GIBSON. Not directly, with the exception of a paper giving permission for an operation on our son which the Swiss Embassy obtained through a Cuban lawyer for me.

Senator CAPEHART. What has your Government, the American Government, done to assist you in this matter?

Mrs. GIBSON. They cabled Berne, Switzerland, and Berne cabled the Swiss Embassy in Havana, and after 3 or 4 weeks I received the information that he was well 3 or 4 weeks ago.

Senator CAPEHART. And as far as you know that is all they have accomplished or made any effort to accomplish?

Mrs. GIBSON. That seems to be all they have done.

Senator CAPEHART. Well, at this point I want to say that this is a case where an American citizen is in a Cuban prison, and our Government seems to be making no effort to get him released. The so-called Tractors-for-Freedom Committee seems to be taking no interest in Americans that are in Cuban prisons either.

I think I ought to read the names of 22 Americans that were given to me today by the State Department. These are American citizens who are now in Cuban prisons:

AMERICANS IN PRISON IN CUBA—CRIME, AND SENTENCE

1. Shergalis, William J., crimes against the state, awaiting trial since March 21, 1960.
2. Rundquist, Howard L., crimes against the state, awaiting trial since March 21, 1960.
3. Taransky, Edmund, crimes against the state, 10 years.
4. Danbrunt, Eustance, crimes against the state, 10 years.
5. Carswell, Daniel, crimes against the state, 10 years.
6. Young, Austin F., Jr., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
7. Lambton, Peter John, counter-revolutionary activities, 25 years.
8. Del Pino, Rafael, counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
9. Martino, John V., counter-revolutionary activities, 13 years.
10. Roberts, John Howard, hotel debts (started serving sentence before breakup of diplomatic relations between United States and Cuba), 2 years.
11. Bradley, Leslie, plotting invasion, 10 years.
12. Peccoraro, Richard Allen, counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
13. Nordio, Mario, espionage, 30 years.
14. Koop, Juan Pedro, counter-revolutionary activities, 20 years.
15. Gibson, Alford E., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
16. Scheidt, Leonard L., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
17. Beck, George R., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
18. Baker, Tommy L., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
19. Beane, James R., counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
20. Green, Donald Joe, counter-revolutionary activities, 30 years.
21. Ponce de Leon, Maria, political, awaiting sentence.
22. Gentile, Robert John, counter-revolutionary activities, 10 years.

Now, folks, those are the names of 22 American citizens who are in Cuban prisons. The State Department tells me that they don't know how many Americans are in

prison in Cuba where there has been no trial or no conviction.

The 22 U.S. citizens, whose names I have just read to you have already been sentenced from 10 to 30 years each. The shortest sentence I find is 10 years—the longest sentence is 30 years. And as I said a moment ago, they have made no effort to estimate the number of Americans that are in Cuban prisons that haven't been tried or sentenced. And Mrs. Gibson's husband is in that category. The State Department only knows about Mr. Gibson because of Mrs. Gibson's efforts to do something for him.

Now the question, of course, that enters my mind is why is our Tractors for Freedom Committee, which is willing to have Castro blackmail us for 500 tractors, interested in the release of 1,200 Cuban prisoners, when we are making no effort to see that American prisoners are released. And this situation exists all over the world. We have Americans imprisoned in China, in Russia, and other places.

I am hopeful, as a result of this broadcast, that the American people, who are listening will wire me, and wire the President of the United States—and demand that our Government do something about this situation. I think it's ridiculous and humiliating to think that we show more interest in Cuban prisoners than we do Americans who are in Cuban prisons.

The State Department also told me today that it has estimated that Castro has some 50,000 political prisoners. Most of these are Cubans, of course, except for the Americans.

I am hopeful that you people will write me and write your President, and demand that the Government do something to help this lady get her husband back. Mr. Gibson is an American citizen, he was in Cuba on legitimate business. The Gibsons have two children; they are American citizens and live in Connecticut. I hope that we can do something about this situation. And, as I say, this is not a pleasant broadcast, but I think the people ought to know what's going on in Cuba. You can multiply the Mrs. Gibsons by many, many times and you get a little idea of the grief in the United States on the part of many American citizens as a result of our people, Americans, lying in prisons in Cuba and throughout the world.

Unless you have something else to say, Mrs. Gibson, we thank you very much and I hope this program will be helpful to you. I assure you that I am going to do everything I possibly can to get our Government and other sources to assist you in getting your husband released from this Cuban prison.

Mrs. GIBSON. Well, thank you, Senator Capehart.

Senator CAPEHART. Thank you very, very much.

Good Will Ambassadors Sell Florida

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PAUL G. ROGERS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 5, 1961

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, all of us are looking forward to an upswing in business this spring and summer. Some people will keep looking, others will go out and do something about it, selling their products and services through promotion, advertising, and person-to-person contact.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a group of businessmen have organized a unique

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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nesses; has the right to certain information in Government files, and also the right to review of the SACB's findings by the courts of this land.

Fifth. The Government can falsely attach the Communist label to political parties, peace groups, labor unions, Negro organizations, and civic bodies, depriving their members of many rights and subjecting them to criminal prosecution unless they publicly denounce themselves as traitors.

The truth is that under the Internal Security Act, no organization can be found to be Communist except under the conditions I have previously enumerated, conditions which grant every reasonable protection to individual and group rights and which the Supreme Court has found, are in conformity with the Constitution.

Sixth. The Declaration of Independence and the Bible can now be designated "Communist propaganda."

The truth is only that all literature distributed by Communist organizations cited as such by the SACB must indicate the nature of the organization. The literature itself—even if it were the Communist manifesto—would not be designated as "Communist propaganda."

With the help of the New York Times, and the Washington Post, Khrushchev's fifth column in the United States has succeeded in presenting to their readers who are not informed on the actual provisions of the Smith and Internal Security Acts a picture of police-state America, an America whose Constitution and Bill of Rights is a joke, an America that has deserted its principles and practices political repression, an America that is no longer America.

This ad is not only a vicious detraction of the United States, it is an unconscionable whitewash of the Communist conspiracy, the kind of thing we expect from Communists, but also the kind of thing which The New York Times, and the Washington Post, if they had any self-respect, would not touch. The ad charged that the Supreme Court of the United States in its recent Smith and Internal Security Act decisions relied on two fraudulent arguments; namely, that the Communists are foreign agents and that they advocate forceful overthrow of the United States.

Over 10 years ago, in 1948, the Committee on Un-American Activities, in a special report based largely on the writings of the Communists themselves, documented the fact that Communists are foreign agents; and that is exactly the determination made by the Court after the Communist Party was given every opportunity to disprove the charge. As the Attorney General said of this case, the Communist Party has had its day, and in fact, its years in Court on this very point.

On the question of forceful overthrow of the U.S. Government, I like to bring to the attention of all Members of this House the following fact:

Less than 2 years ago, there was published in Moscow, and in the Russian language, a book entitled "Fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism." An English language translation of this work is now available in the United States and is be-

ing sold in Communist book stores and literature distribution centers throughout the country. The official Communist organs, the Worker and Political Affairs, have promoted and praised this book, saying its publication is an event of major importance. All members of the conspiracy have been told, in effect, that this book is their new "bible."

I quote from page 619 of this book, a book that is now being studied in Communist clubs and cells throughout the country:

Of course, it would be wrong to think that power could be won by parliamentary means on any election day. Only reformists who are convinced that profound social changes are decided by a mere vote could believe this. Marxist-Leninists do not have so primitive a conception of the coming of the working class to power through parliament.

And on page 617 this world Communist directive states:

Wherever the reactionary bourgeoisie has a strong army and police force at its disposal, the working class will encounter fierce resistance. There can be no doubt that in a number of capitalist countries the overthrow of the bourgeois dictatorship will inevitably take place through an armed class struggle.

Most of you know, I am sure, that according to the Communist line set by Moscow—and accepted by the U.S. conspiracy—the United States is the world's prime example of a country where the reactionary bourgeoisie has a strong army and police force at its disposal. It is, in other words, the country where armed and violent overthrow must take place.

I cannot help wondering why the New York Times and the Washington Post, if they want to present the Communist side truthfully, do not publish some of the choice tidbits such as these from the "Fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism," instead of accepting and promoting—for cash—the smear-America lies of the Communists.

Perhaps it all depends on one's idea of just what is fit to print.

MR. FRANK REEVES

(Mrs. ST. GEORGE asked and was given permission to extend her remarks at this point in the RECORD.)

Mrs. ST. GEORGE. Mr. Speaker, anyone appointed to an office of public service and trust must have a record that recognizes public responsibility. By his own example he must show that he is meticulous about his obligations as a citizen and live up to them. One of these requirements is the prompt payment of taxes that are legally due and for which he has received the proper notice. Therefore it was with considerable misgivings that I read in the Sunday Star—June 25th—that Mr. Frank Reeves, nominated by the President for the important post of a District Commissioner had failed to pay his District income tax for the years of 1957 and 1958, and that these taxes had recently been collected after a lien had been filed against him by the authorities. Such a record should absolutely disqualify this man for this public position of such great responsibility. If he were

running for an elective office his opponent would blast him out of the running because the people will not countenance such an attitude.

Mr. Reeves' reported explanation that this delinquency was an "oversight" on the part of his wife is hard to believe, but if true it shows great carelessness in his attitude toward his obligations as a citizen and it cannot be condoned. His further explanation that he is "human"—whatever that means—is an insult to the intelligence of the thousands of taxpayers who meet their obligations, no matter how difficult it may be.

The President could not have known about this tax default or he would never have made the appointment, and now that it has been revealed the appointment should be withdrawn. In any event, I trust the Senate will make a thorough investigation and if the facts are as they have been reported, refuse to confirm this man. We must keep the government of our national capital free from chiselers and those who do not meet their responsibilities of citizenship.

Cuba
PROPOSED SWAP OF U.S.-BUILT TRACTORS FOR CUBAN PRISONERS

(Mr. MICHEL asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include a letter directed to the Attorney General and his reply thereto.)

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, Members of this House are aware that I have been very critical of the proposed swap of U.S.-built tractors for Cuban prisoners. In the first instance, we pointed up the difference between so-called agricultural general-purpose tractors and the much larger track-type, Caterpillar D-8's originally requested by Castro. Since that time the Tractors for Freedom Committee has been negotiating for the smaller tractors, and while this does not make the deal any more palatable to me, I was glad to see that the distinction was drawn and predicted that Fidel Castro would refuse acceptance of the smaller units, for he knew precisely what he was asking for in the first instance. Quite frankly, I thought the whole deal had fallen through as of last Friday, but now as of this morning we learn through the press that the whole dirty business is being revived.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that on June 13 I addressed a letter to the Attorney General suggesting that this negotiating committee was acting in violation of section 953 of title 18 of the United States Code, the so-called Logan Act. On June 22—9 days later, after prompting with a telegram—I received a reply to my letter. Mr. Speaker, I include the full text of my letter of June 13, together with the reply from Attorney General Robert Kennedy, in their entirety at this point in the RECORD:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., June 13, 1961.

Hon. ROBERT F. KENNEDY,
The Attorney General,
Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL KENNEDY: It is my understanding that this morning a group of individuals representing the so-

called Tractors for Freedom Committee departed the United States for Cuba to negotiate an exchange of 500 U.S.-built tractors for 1,200 Cuban prisoners. Aside from the many facets of this blackmail swap with which we may be in disagreement, I shall address myself in this communication to only one in which I believe there is a violation of the law.

I would respectfully draw your attention to section 953 of title 18 of the United States Code. This section states:

"Any citizen of the United States, wherever he may be, who, without authority of the United States, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both."

While there have been no convictions under this statute since its original enactment in 1799 (1 Stat. 613), it has been mentioned in judicial context on several occasions.

In reviewing the legislative history of this statute, I find that Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina said in debate on the bill: "If an individual goes forward to a foreign government to negotiate on national concerns, what answer could he give to such a government when he was asked, 'Upon what authority do you come?' He must say, 'I have no power, I am undelegate; but our administration is either weak or wicked, and will not do what is for the interest of the country, and therefore I come, because I think myself more wise, and better disposed to serve my country than its constituted authorities.' And is there no criminality *** in this throwing censure on those who have been appointed by the people to administer the Government? If such an act produces any effect at all, it must produce a bad one. Any sensible government must either laugh at such a man as mad, or conclude that he is the agent of a deep-rooted party opposed to the government of the country from whence he comes. And certainly no individual ought to be permitted to do an act with impunity which might throw so great a contempt upon the government of his country." (8-9 Annals of Congress, 2609-2610).

I would ask you, Mr. Attorney General, upon what authority can this committee negotiate any kind of an agreement with the head of a foreign government except that they do so in violation of the aforementioned statute? It would seem to me that until this question is officially resolved that the Government should take appropriate steps to bar the shipment of any tractors or equipment agreed upon by this committee and which currently are under Government embargo.

I would appreciate having an early expression from you in answer to the question which I have raised on the legality of the transaction being negotiated by the so-called Tractors for Freedom Committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. MICHEL,
Member of Congress.

Hon. ROBERT H. MICHEL,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MICHEL: I refer to your letter to me of June 18, 1961, inquiring whether the negotiations of the Tractors for Freedom Committee with the Cuban Government involve any violation of the Logan Act, 18 U.S.C. 953.

That act, the text of which is set forth in your letter, makes it a crime for any citizen of the United States, without authority of the United States, to commence or carry on

correspondence or intercourse with a foreign government, with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government in relation to any dispute or controversy with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States. The act was passed in 1799 as the result of the private efforts of Dr. George Logan, of Pennsylvania, to arrange a peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes between the United States and France, following the failure of the mission of the special envoys sent by President Adams for this purpose. The underlying intent of the legislation, as stated by its sponsor, Mr. Griswold, was to prohibit "an interference of individual citizens in the negotiations of our Executive with foreign governments" (9 Annals of Congress 2489). (See to the same general effect, 9 Annals of Congress 2494 (Mr. Griswold), 2502 (Mr. Pinckney), 2591 (Mr. Bayard), 2617 (Mr. Harper).)

On the basis of the information available to the Department of Justice, it does not appear that the negotiations now in progress by the Tractors for Freedom Committee involve any interference with negotiations between the Governments of the United States and Cuba, or any intent to influence the measures or conduct of the Cuban Government "in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States" or to "defeat the measures of the United States." The President has stated his sympathy with the humanitarian objectives of the committee and the intention of the Government not to interfere with or put obstacles in the way of a legitimate private, humanitarian effort. A copy of the President's statement is attached.

In view of the foregoing, I do not believe any violation of the Logan Act is involved.

Sincerely,

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

[From the New York Times, May 25, 1961]

STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY,
WASHINGTON, MAY 24, 1961

The tractors-for-freedom movement is a wholly private humanitarian movement aimed at saving the lives of several hundred men. It is supported by free men and women throughout the Americas.

When Fidel Castro first made his offer to "exchange" the lives and liberty of 1,200 prisoners for 500 agricultural tractors, the American people responded with characteristic compassion. A number of private committees were organized to raise the necessary funds and many private citizens, in this country and throughout the hemisphere, inquired as to where they could contribute.

My concern was to help make certain that a single, representative group of citizens headed this effort in the United States. I am grateful to Mrs. Roosevelt, Walter Reuther, and Dr. Milton Eisenhower for their leadership.

The U.S. Government has not been and cannot be a party to these negotiations. But when private citizens seek to help prevent suffering in other lands through voluntary contributions—which is a great American tradition—this Government should not interfere with their humanitarian efforts.

Neither law nor equity calls upon us to impose obstacles in their path as they seek to save those who fought to restore freedom in our hemisphere. I am advised that the Logan Act is not involved, inasmuch as it covers only negotiations "in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States"; that tax exemption is granted as a matter of course to any "charitable" organization engaged in the rehabilitation and assistance of needy refugees; and that export licenses are routinely granted for humanitarian reasons, to ship farm produce and medicines to Cuba, and would thus be

granted for a humanitarian shipment of farm implements.

While this Government is thus putting forward neither obstacles nor assistance to this wholly private effort, I hope that all citizens will contribute what they can. If they were our brothers in a totalitarian prison, every American would want to help. I happen to feel deeply that all who fight for freedom particularly in our hemisphere are brothers.

THE 1961 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. Goodeell] is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, June 25, 1961, the 62d Yearbook of Agriculture was released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and through our congressional offices will be made available to the American people.

We in the 43d Congressional District of New York are exceedingly proud of the contribution made to this volume by one of our fine citizens from Fredonia, N.Y. I speak of Mr. John F. Schiffman, vice president of the Hygrade Seed Co. in Fredonia. More than 2 years ago John Schiffman urged that one of the annual yearbooks published by the Department of Agriculture should deal with the important subject of seeds. Mr. Schiffman has been a leader in the production of this excellent and useful volume.

These volumes were first called yearbooks in 1895 when their annual publication began. However, the history of the publication actually dates back to 1849 when the Commissioner of Patents issued his annual report. Part II of that report was devoted to agriculture.

The present volume, representing months of work, contains 75 chapters with 48 pages of photographs and other illustrations. It is the work of a total of 128 writers and could well become the definitive text in its field. The Secretary of Agriculture, in the foreword, states that "good seeds are both a symbol and a foundation of the good life our people have gained."

The subject matter of seeds was among the first concerns of the early settlers on these shores and helped to expand the country through the West. It is with seeds and improved methods of using them that untamed sectors of our land are being utilized today. Seeds are an important factor around the world in the continuing struggle to raise the standard of living of all the nations of the globe.

Against this backdrop of worldwide attention to seeds, the Department of Agriculture has issued this highly readable report on "Seeds". It is significant that it is being issued concurrently with the meeting of the American Seed Trade Association in Chicago, Ill., this week. The book also is being issued just prior to the celebration of World Seed Year being observed by many free nations with the actual celebration being held in Rome during the summer months.

John Schiffman has lived in Chautauqua County all his life. We have in Chautauqua County a rich rural tradition. Many of our finest citizens have